(b) if so, what is the extent of damage caused to the animals in flooded Kaziranga National Park;

(c) the details of action plan for rehabilitation of the National Park; and

(d) the long term plan formulated to deal with exigencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Assam Government have constructed high islands/dikes, to serve as save places for animals during floods. However, the spell of flood this year was too long and animals, mentioned below, dies due to non availability of grasses for feeding purpose.

Name of the Species	No. of animals died during 1998 floods
Rhino	35
Elephant	7
Wild Buffalo	22
Swamp deer	8
Wild boar	19
Sambhar	13
Hog dear	983
Hog badger	7
Porcupine	9
Fishing cat	2

Besides, the above animals carcasses of two fishing cats, one monitor lizard, four Cobras, three pythons, two civets and one langoor have also been recovered.

(c) and (d) The steps contemplated to safeguard against such mortalities are:

(i) Adding more islands to the area of the park.

(ii) Desilting water bodies and construction of dikes.

(iii) Declaration of Karbinglong area as a sanctuary and to provide the animals, corridors for moving to this hilly area during rains.

Relocation of Delhi Zoological Gardens

2813. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to relocate Delhi Zoological Gardens to make space for high rise buildings;

(b) whether Government's attention has also been drawn to the new-item which appeared in the Statesman, Delhi edition, dated 25th March, 1999 in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No such proposal is under consideration.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) This Ministry does not agree with the relocation of Delhi Zoological Gardens. The reasons as to why relocation is not contemplated are given below:—

(i) The zoo, at its present site, provides a green lung to the congested and thickly populated area of Delhi;

(ii) The present location of the zoo is very convenient to the visitors and they can take advantage of the zoo with minimum resources and even with marginal time available with them;

(iii) Shifting of the zoo would render the infrastructure that has been constructed over the years infructuous and useless;

(iv) Creation of similar infrastructure at a new location would be quite costly because the prices of building material as well equipment have increased significantly over the years.